

## **REMARKS**

Before entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-35 were pending in the application. Claims 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 and 22-35 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-6, 9, 12, 13 and 15-21 were rejected. After entry of this Response claims 1-6, 9, 12, 13 and 15-21 remain pending under examination. The number of total claims has not been increased, and the number of independent claims has not been increased beyond the number for which payment previously had been made.

Applicants hereby incorporate their previously stated arguments for patentability herein. The present preliminary amendment clarifies that the region of the necked base layer material in its necked condition and the portion of the underlying absorbent body structure that is in registry with the aforementioned region of the necked base layer material, are bonded directly to each other.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of claims 1-6, 9, 12, 13 and 15-21, as presented herein, and submit that these claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue.

If any fee or extension of time is required to obtain entry of this Amendment, the undersigned hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant any necessary time extension and authorizes charging Deposit Account No. 04-1403 for any such fee not submitted herewith.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience should any additional information be required.

Respectfully submitted,

DORITY & MANNING, P.A.

10 August 2007  
Date

By:

James M. Bagarazzi  
James M. Bagarazzi  
Registration No.: 29,609

P.O. Box 1449  
Greenville, SC 29602-1449  
(864) 271-1592  
fax (864) 233-7342